

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
BENJAMIN GILMAN

## HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a dear friend and former Congressional colleague, the Honorable Benjamin Gilman.

Ben, ever a true statesman and gentleman, served as a mentor to me, especially during his time as Chairman of the House International Relations Committee. His tenure was marked by a supreme dedication to those in need: the hungry, the oppressed, and the neglected around the world.

Whether through his work in promoting microcredit and micro-enterprise programs, or his leadership investigating religious intolerance, Chairman Gilman served as a model for all of his colleagues. He used his voice and platform to speak for those the world could not hear.

A proud veteran of the Second World War, Chairman Gilman also focused on returning prisoners of war to their homes, the plight of the working poor in countries whose economies were paralyzed by international drug trade, and so very many more.

To his former constituents in New York, he was known as "Gentle Ben," and fortunately for his former colleagues, Ben is, to this day, an active participant in our government.

I am grateful to Chairman Gilman for his great works, and for the inspiration he gave me years ago when he wielded the gavel of the International Relations Committee.

I am pleased to also recognize that Chairman Gilman is still being recognized to this day for his great contributions to our country. In fact, this past Sunday, June 29, Orange Hall of Orange County Community College held its Paintings for World-Harmony exhibit dedicated to Ben. This heartfelt event contained the renowned works of his longtime friend, Sri Chinmoy (Deceased—2007).

Ben, your portrait hangs in our Committee Hearing room, but truly, we need no such reminder of your tenure. Your work on behalf of all Americans in advancing freedom and justice is ongoing, and ever-present in our minds.

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD H. BAKER, JR. "MAJORITY LEADER, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF, AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, AND THE 'GREAT CONCILIATOR' OF THE SENATE"

## HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 30, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Howard Henry Baker, Jr., a great American, a man who personified civility and bipartisanship; one of the most passionate advocates for good governance, fiscal responsibility, and global security; a man who served his body with distinction in the Armed Services and the United States Senate. Senator Baker died at his home in Huntsville, Tennessee, today, June 26, 2014, at the age of 88.

Born November 15, 1925, in Huntsville, Tennessee, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., the son of Howard Henry Baker, Sr. and Dora Ladd Baker, was heir to a distinguished political tradition. His grandfather was a judge and his grandmother was the first woman to serve as sheriff in Tennessee.

His father, Howard Henry Baker, Sr., represented eastern Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1951 until his death in 1964, whereupon he was succeeded by his wife and Howard Baker's stepmother, Irene Bailey Baker.

Howard Baker was educated at The McCallie School, a military academy in Chattanooga, and Tulane University in New Orleans. During World War II, he trained at a U.S. Navy facility on the campus of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee in the V-12 Navy College Training Program.

He was commissioned as a lieutenant, junior grade, and served on a PT boat in the South Pacific as World War II was ending. After his discharge, Howard Baker attended the University of Tennessee College of Law, from which he graduated in 1949 and embarked upon a highly successful career in the private practice of law.

Howard Baker began his political career in 1964 when he sought and won the Republican nomination to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Estes Kefauver but was defeated in the special election by Ross Bass. Undaunted, he came back two years later to capture the Senate seat, this time defeating former Tennessee Governor Frank Clement, who had defeated Senator Bass in the Democratic primary.

In winning the race, by the decisive margin of 56-44 and supported by a coalition of African Americans, young persons, and moderates, Howard Baker became the first Republican elected to the Senate from Tennessee since Reconstruction. He was reelected in 1972 and 1978, serving 18 years in total before retiring from the Senate in 1984 at the end of the 98th Congress.

In the Senate, Howard Baker's record marked him, as he described himself, as "moderate to moderate conservative." He supported fair housing and voting rights legislation, and was a leading advocate of the Clean Air Act. He also was instrumental in the bitter but ultimately successful fight to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty.

Howard Baker also was a young man in a hurry. Upon the death of his father-in-law and mentor, the great Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen, whose daughter, Joy, he had met and married in 1951, Howard Baker sought the post of Senate Republican Leader.

He was narrowly defeated by Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania. But after the retirement of Senator Scott in 1976, Howard Baker was elected by Republican Leader by his colleagues and Senate Majority Leader in 1980 when Republicans regained the Senate for the first time since 1954 in the wake of the 1980 landslide election of Ronald Reagan.

Howard Baker is perhaps best known for his service as the Vice-Chairman of Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, better known as the Senate Watergate Committee. He is remembered for asking the question: "What did the president know and when did he know it?"

That question would go on to become a national catchphrase and a part of the nation's cultural lexicon.

In 1980, Howard Baker was a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination won by Ronald Reagan. After retiring from the Senate in 1984, he considered a second run for the presidency but put aside those personal ambitions in 1987 to accept President Reagan's request to serve as White House Chief of Staff at the nadir of the Reagan Administration brought on by the Iran-Contra scandal.

As Majority Leader, Howard Baker supported Reagan's supply-side economic program of massive tax cuts for the wealthy and draconian cuts to Great Society programs. In response to the resulting massive structural deficits, Howard Baker helped broker the deal and shepherd to passage legislation in 1982 that raised taxes. He also worked with President Reagan and House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill to put Social Security on a sound financial footing for 75 years.

For his lifetime of service to our nation, Howard Baker was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Reagan in 1984. But his service to our nation did not stop there. In 2001, Howard Baker was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 27th Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan in which capacity he served until February 17, 2005.

In 2007, he joined with former congressional leaders Tom Daschle, George Mitchell, and Bob Dole to found the Bipartisan Policy Center, a non-partisan organization that promotes bipartisanship solutions to the major challenges facing the nation.

In 1996, after the death of his first wife, Joy Dirksen, he married Nancy Landon Kassebaum from Kansas. In 2001 he was appointed U.S. ambassador to Japan and served faithfully.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Baker was a legislator's legislator. Our prayers and condolences go out to his widow, former U.S. Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker, to his son Darek and daughter Cissy, and to his family and loved ones.

Howard Baker touched so many lives in so many helpful ways that he will always be remembered as one of the finest public servants of the 20th century.

I ask that the House observe a moment of silence in memory of the distinguished senator from Tennessee, Howard Henry Baker, Jr., the "Great Conciliator of the Senate."

### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.